

# **MANISTEE CITY COUNCIL**

## **WORK SESSION AGENDA**

**Tuesday, June 12, 2012 - 7:00 p.m. - Council Chambers, City Hall**

**I. Call to Order.**

**II. Work Session Items.**

- a.) DISCUSSION ON FERTILIZER APPLICATIONS – City Manager Mitch Deisch and DPW Director Jack Garber.
- b.) 2012 CAPITAL PROJECT UPDATE – City Manager Mitch Deisch.

**III. Adjourn.**

MDD:cl

MEMO TO: Mayor Colleen Kenny  
Members of City Council

FROM: Mitch Deisch, City Manager

DATE: June 6, 2012

SUBJECT: Public Property Fertilizer / Weed Control



City Manager's Office  
231-398-2801

### **BACKGROUND**

In February 2012 Ms. Polly Schlaff, 506 Third Street sent an email to City Council asking for consideration to change the past practice of using synthetic fertilizer / weed killer on City-owned grass areas. Based upon Ms. Schlaff's email administration began discussing what options are available with our lawn care provider, Turf Care. During the May 1, 2012 Council meeting Ms. Schlaff made a presentation to City Council about her concerns over the current practice of using synthetic fertilizer / weed control products on City grass areas; specifically those used by our children during sporting events.

Council requested staff to explore options for using organic products in place of synthetic products. Staff began the process of reviewing options and determining their cost impacts to the budget.

### **COSTS**

Based upon the research, three options were identified. Those options and associated costs are as follows:

OPTION	DESCRIPTION	COST
Status Quo	Continue to receive three applications of synthetic fertilizer and weed control.	\$6,800
Organic Fertilizer	Three applications of 100% organic fertilizer on City property. This application does not include weed control.	\$21,100
Hybrid Option	The hybrid option consists of using organic fertilizers (again no weed control) on youth recreation areas; while the remaining public grass areas (City Hall, DPW, Fire Station, etc.) would receive the same fertilizer / weed control as we have in the past.	\$18,800

### **JUNE 12, 2012 COUNCIL WORK SESSION DISCUSSION**

Based upon the difference of the costs between the three options, staff would like to discuss with Council the various options and obtain direction from Council as to which option is in the best interest of the City of Manistee.

- c. Jack Garber, DPW Director  
Polly Schlaff, 506 Third Street